What is claimed is:

1.   A method for running a software application on a computer without installation of the application thereon, under an operating system that provides a local database containing consistent configuration data to be accessed by programs running on the computer, which configuration data would normally include installation data generated during the installation of the application, the method comprising:

　　　providing a file containing the installation data which are not stored in the local database; and

　　　accessing the data in the file instead of accessing the local database so as to retrieve the installation data while running the application.